



**GOVERNOR'S ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES
General Meeting – October 22, 2013
10:00 A.M.**

Location: 1700 W. Washington
Second Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, AZ

Members Present: Dr. Craig Barrett (telephonic), Tim Carter, Rep. Jeff Dial (ex-officio), Pearl Esau, Dr. Rufus Glasper, Glen Hamer, Jake Logan, Amanda McAdams, Diane McCarthy, Jacob Moore, Colleen Niccum, Kathy Player, Tom Tyree, and Dr. Jim Zaharis.

Members Absent: Rep. Doris Goodale (ex-officio), Brad Holaway, Superintendent John Huppenthal, Eileen Klein, Onnie Shekerjian, Merl Waschler, Sandra Watson, and Sen. Kimberly Yee (ex-officio).

Staff Present: Rebecca Gau and Kerry McConnell

Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Craig Barrett called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and introduced the purpose of the meeting, which was to receive updates regarding the Data Use Pillar, the Governor's Office of Education Innovation, the College and Career Ready Standards, and the Public Engagement Taskforce.

Dr. Barrett called for an approval of the Sept 11, 2013 Council meeting minutes as presented. Tom Tyree moved for the approval, Diane McCarthy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Update: Data Use Pillar

Kerry McConnell with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation provided the Council with an update on the status of the Data Use Pillar. The three strategies for this pillar are: Provide technical assistance, facilitate data conversations, and develop and support a statewide longitudinal educational data system. Ms. McConnell reports that each of the strategies is coming along very well.

Ms. McConnell will be delivering a data presentation to the West Central Regional Council on January 15, 2013.

Tim Carter thanked Ms. McConnell as well as Kelsey Bullington for the presentation they delivered the previous day in Yavapai County to a group of parents.

Update: GOEI

Rebecca Gau with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation gave an update on the Teacher Survey. She informed the Council that there is a new open-ended question that allows participants to explain why they rated the training they received the way they did. Ms. Gau also reported that there is a positive trend in the improvement of teacher confidence and knowledge of Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards (ACCRS). For example, teachers who have received training report having significantly higher confidence in their ability to implement the Standards in their own classrooms. There was also a significant difference in the attitude towards ACCRS between those who teach lower grades and those who teach high school, where high school teachers are less likely to be confident and supportive of the Standards.

Ms. Gau then provided the Council with an update on the Public Opinion Survey. In August, it found that between 20-23% of individuals across the state report a high level of knowledge about ACCRS. Over 70% of parents report sharing the same level of knowledge. Moreover, Democrats and Republicans do not have a significant difference in their opinions on ACCRS. However, those who consider themselves as being Independent tend to have an unfavorable opinion on the Standards. Ms. Gau suggested to the Council that a question be added to the survey. The question would ask the participant if they would consider opportunities to more engaged. This purpose of this would be to get the participant to think more deeply about their own role in education policy.

Ms. Gau brought the possibility of adding another goal before the Council. The purpose of the goal would be to acknowledge the pipeline that the community colleges are part of in terms of providing certificates and associate degrees, as well as four-year university transfers. Dr. Rufus Glasper provided the Council with details regarding what this goal would entail in terms of underlying purposes as well as specific numerical goals being considered. The Council then discussed other potential options for this new proposed goal as well as clarifying some of the smaller details.

Update: College and Career Ready Standards

Amanda McAdams from the Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) presented the Council with an update on how schools are implementing ACCRS. Ms. McAdams informed the Council that GUHSD is currently recognized as an "A" district by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). They are currently working toward aligning every assessment with the ACCRS, which means that every assessment will require reading, writing, and critical thinking with real world application.

Kristie Martorelli from the Dysart Unified School District informed the Council that her district has been having productive conversations about the implementation of the new Standards and how they can have the most effect with respect to the introduction to a new way to think about what "rigor" really means in the classroom.

Melanie Edwards from the Casa Grande Union High School District outlined some of the challenges that her district had been facing and continues to face. Despite the challenges, Ms. Edwards reported that she and her district are excited about the implementation of ACCRS and have a great amount of faith that the new Standards will improve education and learning in Arizona's classrooms. Ms.

Edwards went on to outline some of the immediate needs that rural school districts need in order to successfully implement ACCRS, before asking the Council to stay supportive of ACCRS.

Tim Carter, Yavapai County School Superintendent and Regional Lead for the West Central Regional Service Center, provided the Council with an update on the Regional Centers and ACCRS. Mr. Carter discussed in detail many misperceptions that the public has about ACCRS and the Arizona education system in general. Mr. Carter stated that these disconnects and misunderstandings are detrimental to the success and longevity of ACCRS. He went on to suggest several options and opportunities that Arizona has to address these issues as well as improve other areas.

Update: Public Engagement Taskforce

Pearl Esau with Expect More Arizona informed the Council that 36% of Arizona voters know a lot or something about ACCRS, and out of those, 60% support the Standards. Additionally, when the Standards are described, over 80% of Arizona voters are in favor of the Standards and assessment. On the national scale, however, there are still states having trouble with the implementation of Common Core because of political opposition.

Ms. Esau indicated that teachers are some of the most important champions of ACCRS, and that with their support, the public will also move to stand behind the Standards.

Erin Hart, also with Expect More Arizona, presented the Council with a brief update on what the Public Engagement Taskforce has been working on and how well everything is going. Ms. Hart announced some details about the October 30th Legislative symposium on the Standards, and she encouraged individuals who support the Standards to attend and show their support, as there would also be opposition present.

Ms. Hart gave an overview of what a few other states are doing with Common Core and listed some of the lessons that Arizona can learn from both their successes and their struggles.

Council Comments

Dr. Barrett, Dr. Zaharis, and Mr. Carter reviewed possible agenda topics for the December meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Council, Jim Zaharis motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Colleen Niccum and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.